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Patrice A. King

Fee

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BARAN, MARY C.

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

In response to an Office Action dated December 22, 2003, the Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments and remarks for consideration by the Examiner in the above-identified patent application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.

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